



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013

No. 31

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, our rock, You are our shield in the time of storm. We give You our hopes and dreams, knowing that You know what is best for our Nation and world. Lord, You know the numerous challenges we face, so guide our Senators with Your wisdom. May integrity and uprightness be the standards for their conduct so that they will not disappoint You. Lift the light of Your countenance upon them and be gracious to them. Give fresh strength and wisdom as You renew the drumbeat of Your Spirit in their hearts, empowering them to march to the rhythm of Your righteousness.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 5, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the Chaplain leaves the Chamber, I want to say something on behalf of all the Senators.

New Senators probably don't know him as well as those who have been here longer than the beginning of this year, but we are so fortunate to have this good man leading the Senate in our spiritual activities. He leads the prayer every morning. We have a "Prayer Breakfast" every Wednesday. And during that period of time when we don't see him, he is out counseling people who work here, including individual Senators.

During the last few years, my wife has been ill and has had a bad accident. He has been so in tune with her, making sure that we all are aware of how well she is doing. She has had a great recovery.

So on behalf of the whole Senate, I extend my appreciation to this good man—a man who was born with very little except a very good mother who taught him early on—and had a very keen intellect—that with his mind he could accomplish a great deal.

As far as memory, there is only one other person I have known in my lifetime who had a memory like his, and that was Robert Byrd, the longtime Senator from West Virginia. Chaplain Black has a remarkable memory of not only all the Scriptures, Old and New

Testament, but poems. He has an intellect that is really amazing.

Again, I repeat, we are all so very fortunate that he is Chaplain of the Senate.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks today, the Senate will be in morning business until 11:45 a.m., with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes.

Following morning business the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 64, which is the committee funding resolution. At about 12:15 p.m. there will be a rollcall vote on Senator PAUL's amendment striking funding for the National Security Working Group. Following the vote the Senate will be in recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

As a reminder, I filed cloture on the nomination of Caitlin Halligan to be U.S. circuit judge for the DC Circuit, and I will discuss that in just a few minutes. We are going to vote on her tomorrow.

### NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, four-time Prime Minister of the United Kingdom William Gladstone said something we all have repeated many times: "Justice delayed is justice denied." By that measure millions of Americans who rely on courts that are overworked and understaffed are being denied the justice they rightly deserve.

With 1 out of every 10 Federal judgeships today vacant, Americans can no longer rely on fairness and speedy trials. More than one-half of the Nation's population lives in a part of the country that has been declared a judicial emergency—more than one-half.

The high number of vacancies isn't due to a lack of qualified lawyers to take these jobs; it is due, instead, to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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